



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

RIYADH • SAUDI ARABIA



September 22, 2010

for Immediate Release

**Statement by Mr. James B. Smith  
U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
On the Occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day**

**September 23, 2010**

On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I want to congratulate the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of your National Day.

For nearly three quarters of a century, the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been strong friends and close allies. From the moment King Abdulaziz and President Franklin D. Roosevelt met on board the cruiser USS Quincy in 1945, our two countries have built a dynamic and enduring partnership based on mutual respect and common interests. We are proud of our close relationship with you, and proud that it grows stronger every year.

On the historic occasion of your National Day, I would like to thank King Abdullah for his continuing leadership to promote economic and political stability in the region. King Abdullah's commitment to the war against terrorism, his work to encourage interfaith dialogue, his advocacy for youth and women, and his support of the Arab Peace Initiative are bold steps that unite us as Saudi Arabia leads the region toward a safer, prosperous future.

As U.S. Ambassador, I am happy that the United States can help build that bright future through education opportunities and cultural exchanges. More than 15,000 young Saudis each year choose the United States as a destination to discover new experiences and pursue higher education. These people-to-people exchanges strengthen our countries' relationship, and give Americans a unique opportunity to learn first-hand from Saudi students about the Kingdom and its people. Through cooperation and understanding we ensure that our partnership will grow stronger in the years ahead.

I am honored to represent the United States of America in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On behalf of the American people, I share my warmest wishes with the people of Saudi Arabia on your National Day.

**Note: To receive a soft copy of this statement, please visit our website at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov>**